Building the Oregon (Malting) Barley Brand

November, 2015

Background and rationale: Please see the June report

Agronomic data: Analyses are complete and will be shared with all participants and then posted at barleyworld. Bottom line:

1. Oregon's high rainfall and irrigated environments can produce excellent spring habit two-row malting barley with competitive yields.
2. The best variety – in terms of yield, protein, and % plump - can vary with environment.
3. Nitrogen fertility affects yield, grain protein, and % plump (surprised?). The magnitude of the effects, and variety responses, varies with environment
4. Brewers and maltsters will have data to refer to as they proceed with sourcing their target variety (Copeland, Full Pint, Expedition, Explorer, and/or Genie) from the environments sampled.
5. *P.S. There's a caveat to the "Oregon-centricity": the Klamath trial was actually grown just across the border at Tulelake, California.*

Malting quality:

1. Great Western (thanks to Rich Joy) and Malteurop (thanks to Mary Jane Maurice) will micro-malt all 45 variety x nitrogen x location samples.
2. Big Sky Malting (thanks to Tom and Vic Blake) will malt ~ 20 lbs. each of the 45 variety x nitrogen x location samples and analyze the resulting malts. The CMBTC (thanks to Yueshue Li) will make three malts (under-modified, modified, and over-modified) from Copeland and Full Pint from one location and nitrogen rate.

Brewing and beer sensory assessment:

1. "Pico-beers" (~ 2 gallons) will be made using four Zymatic machines at Big Sky Malting.
    a. The pico-beers will be canned at Bozeman Brewing (thanks to Todd Scott). The beers will be assessed by sensory panels composed of BJCP judges (and other interested panels) using a structured experimental design and ballot (thanks to Mike Brennan and Dustin Herb).
2. Pilot beers (~ 6 L) will be made from the CMBTC malts (item 3, above)
    a. The beers will be assessed by the CMBTC sensory panel (and other interested panels).

Future plans:

We propose to repeat the experiment in 2016, using the same varieties, nitrogen rates, and environments. Additional environments can be added, with additional financial support.